

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EMERGENCY PROGRAM TO ERADICATE MEDFLY FROM TIJUANA

Review of Strategy

Mexico

15-16 October 2004

Introduction

On Friday October 15, 2005, a meeting took place in Tijuana to review progress being made in eradicating the medfly outbreak detected in the city on September 15. A total of 26 persons participated from the following organizations: SAGARPA, SENASICA, CESVBC, CDFA, USDA/APHIS, Moscamed, Government of BC and various other Mexican States. During the morning session current strategies for the emergency plan were presented by the Incident Command Structure Leader, Ing. Antonio Villaseñor, followed by open discussion among all participants. In the afternoon we visited the operation headquarters, the core area of the outbreak, the fruit burial site, and the quarantine road-station in Rosarito.

Summary of Outbreak and Activities

1. The outbreak was detected on 15 September in Colonia Sanchez Taboada area of Tijuana.
2. Immediately after confirmation of medfly presence, the existing emergency plan was implemented, mobilizing staff from various parts of Mexico and USA to initiate activities. The TAC is very impressed by the swift organization of the response.
3. A large number of collaborators from the various stakeholders were organized in a coordinated manner into the Incident Command Center with clear responsibilities for each organization.
4. The excellent relationships among collaborators were reflected in the overall tone of the presentation and discussions.
5. The Norma Oficial Mexicana con Caracter de Emergencia (NOM-EM-042-FITO-2004) was swiftly enacted on 30 September to provide a legal framework for the eradication and regulatory activities.
6. Very updated information and quantitative data, as well as excellent GIS-based maps, were made available in synthesized form for the review.
7. All detections have been confined within a 2 km² diameter, indicative of a single and anthropic event.
8. Total detections so far include 873 immature stages and 102 adults. This suggests that considerable reproduction had occurred prior to detection.
9. Although the number of traps was rapidly increased to over 1500 in the eradication/delimitation area, the daily rate of adult trapping has been declining. The high number and wide variety of traps provides some confidence that emerging adults will be detected before maturation and reproduction.
10. The very high number of larval detections suggests that newly emerged adults will continue to be trapped for the next generation.
11. The very large fruit sampling without larval detection during the last five days indicates that progress is being made in delimiting the outbreak population.
12. All available control tools are being implemented, including fruit stripping, soil drenches, ground and aerial bait sprays.
13. Major efforts have been made to inform the public through TV, radio and pamphlets to prevent movement of fruit from the infested area.

14. Formal quarantine activities are in place in airports, bus stations and for commercial and private vehicles to prevent spread of infested fruit.

15. A barrier of sterile medflies is being released along on the California side of the Mexico-USA border.

16. Planning the future schedule of eradication activities (SIT) will depend on outcome of the present detection and suppression efforts.

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